



NEWS RELEASE

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El Paso Sector Border Patrol Agents Train El Paso Fire Department in Water Rescue Techniques

Twenty-one members of the El Paso Fire Department will receive swift water rescue training today from agents of the El Paso Sector at a designated location on the American Canal, in Socorro, Texas.

The specialized training will teach life-saving techniques in water safety to the firefighters, who will also receive certification. The swift-water training will be conducted on site at the American Canal/Socorro Headgates, in Socorro, Texas. Specifically, the location for the training is one mile east of the Zaragoza International Bridge, on the river levee road.

The firefighters will receive four hours of classroom instruction, along with 28 hours of practical training in swift water rescue techniques. In addition to providing training for El Paso firefighters, the Border Patrol has also trained members of the Juarez Fire Department, elements of the Juarez Police, and the Juarez EMS in swift water rescue.

The training has strengthened the liaison between all agencies and provided the community with more efficient water rescue resources. "We feel it is important to provide training assistance for as many area agencies as possible," El Paso Sector Chief Luis Barker said. "If one life is saved as a result of this training, then it makes it all worthwhile," Chief Barker added.

The El Paso Sector currently has four instructors and ten technicians for swift water rescue. The agents received their training and are certified by "Rescue 3 International", a premier rescue-training agency recognized worldwide. They are located in Elk Grove, California.

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**** Photos and videotape are available for area media upon request.**

For more information, contact El Paso Sector Public Affairs Office at (915) 834-8311